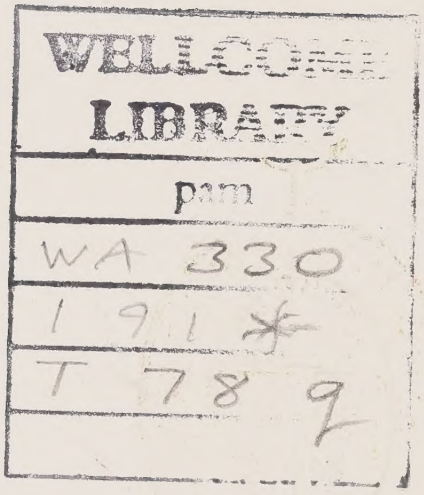
LORD MAYOR TRELOAR
CRIPPLES HOME & COLLEGE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"They are weeping in the playtime of the others.

E. M. BROWNING.

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA,
President of the Alexandra League of Children to help Poor Crippled Children.

The Queen Alexandra League.

AN APPEAL TO THE CHILDREN WHO ARE WELL.

YOU have all read of Aladdin's wonderful adventures, and how the genie used to whisk him off, in the twinkling of an eye, to far remote and distant places, and then reveal to his astonished gaze many wonderful things.

Let me be a genie and take you, in imagination, where you have never been before.

At the present moment you are sitting in a comfortable chair, in a well-furnished room, with plenty of books and toys to delight your eye and mind.

You have enjoyed yourself all day long, have had plenty of good nourishing food, and, later on, will go to rest in the most comfortable of beds.

But, come with me, and let me show you a far different scene. We are leaving your pleasant neighbourhood, where the houses are surrounded with fine trees and pleasant gardens, where the roads are spacious and clean, and where everyone looks well-dressed and prosperous. We are going to the other side of the city, where the streets are all huddled together, where the houses seem to lie one on top of each other, where gloom, and smoke, and dirt take the place of open spaces and sunshine.

Let us go along that dark passage, then up those creaking stairs, and enter the room at the end of the landing.

There's not much in the room; just a deal table, one or two wooden chairs, a few dingy coloured prints on the wall, just a spark of fire in the grate, a bare floor, a dilapidated and dirty curtain in the window, and, huddled up in one of the chairs, peering through the pane at the antics of a group of little ragged urchins in the street below, is a little wizened figure of a boy. Look at him well. His face is wan and colourless, his eyes sunken and heavy, his clothes shabby and soiled, his frame emaciated, and his whole appearance denoting neglect.

Look once more, and you will see that his little legs are all twisted, and that against the chair lie a couple of crude crutches.

Who is he? Just a poor little friendless cripple, who has suffered for years from spinal disease, and who is gradually getting weaker and worse because he has been denied the good things of life, which would minister to his lot. His parents are poor—they have taken him to hospitals, and have been told that what he principally requires is wholesome diet and plenty of fresh air.

But, wholesome diet and fresh air both cost money, and how can poor people, whose whole life consists of desperate endeavours to make ends meet, give him these? No; he has to stay in this unhealthy and polluted atmosphere, his food is probably mostly bread and butter (often bread alone), and, like a sensitive plant deprived of the rain and sunshine, he is just withering away.

In six months' time, in twelve months' time, he will be worse, and, in all likelihood, his little span of life will be abruptly terminated solely through lack of the necessities which his condition demands.

Wouldn't you like to take him where, amidst clean and open surroundings, he would receive the utmost thought and care—where his food would be of the most nourishing description, where impure air is unknown, and where the fresh breezes of the open country would tinge those pale cheeks with a rosy flush of new-born health and strength? where, in short, he could grow well and strong again like you?

It was because our Gracious Queen *knew* that you would like to help these poor cripples that she consented to be President of

THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA LEAGUE TO HELP POOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

The object of the League is to bring the happy and strong children in a close bond of sympathy with the children who are very ill and unhappy. To give them the joy of helping some poor child to recovery who at present is condemned to a life of pain, perhaps to death.

THE QUEEN'S SOLICITUDE.

None of you need to be told why everyone loves the Queen.

Beyond our natural loyalty to the gracious Consort of our King, there is a more human love and admiration for those tender and true womanly qualities which, ever since she was welcomed to this country, have always been shown by Queen Alexandra.

We cannot think of her many deeds of kindness, her ready sympathy with all philanthropic movements, without recalling Tennyson's words,

Kind hearts are more than coronets,

and, whether we are young or old, rich or poor, we know that when sorrow and distress has called for consolation and relief, the best and brightest of examples has been set to her subjects by Her Majesty the Queen.

From the very first, she has given a very practical and whole-hearted support to the movement I started during my year of office, as Lord Mayor of London, on behalf of poor crippled children.

Girls and boys will notice that the League is the "Queen Alexandra" League, and this means that Her Majesty's sympathy is so complete that she has willingly allowed the use of her name for the furtherance of the benevolent objects of the League. Every loyal child in Great Britain

should feel honoured by this, for every member of the League will have the happiness of knowing that, in their own little way, they are promoting the interests of a movement which their Queen has closely at heart, and which she will be delighted to know is appealing to the widespread sympathy of her little subjects from John o' Groats to Land's End. Do you want to please your Queen? Would you like her to realise the great happiness arising from the knowledge that her efforts on behalf of poor crippled children are meeting with the greatest success?

Yes! I am quite sure you would.

The grateful "Thank you" of a poor suffering child whom you had given an opportunity to get well again would make you feel very happy and very proud that you were a member of the Queen Alexandra League.

I want every child in England who is well to become a member of the League, and if you have not already joined, DO SO NOW.

HOW BOYS AND GIRLS MAY JOIN THE LEAGUE.

The Queen Alexandra League is open for membership to all boys and girls in the United Kingdom under the age of sixteen.

There are no restrictions of birth and station whatever, for all children who subscribe or collect the sum of one guinea per year become members.

Every district will have its own Local Association, and a boy or girl who wishes to join should obtain the consent of their parents first, and then either write to, or call upon the Secretary, Queen Alexandra League, 123, Mansion House Chambers, London, E.C., for full information.

This will be sent to you at once, and you will be told how to join the Local Association.

When you have collected a guinea, a Badge (which has been approved by the Queen herself) will be sent to you. You will, of course, wear this badge whenever you go to a

party, so that all your friends will know you are a little ambassador working for your gracious Queen and her suffering subjects.

For each year of your membership a Bar will be given to wear above the medal.

I want you also to persuade all your little friends to join the League, and to do everything you can to build up a very strong Local Branch. If 35 members of your branch only collect a guinea each *you can maintain a child for one year*, and the cot would bear the name of your branch.

I should like you to send a letter every month to the little cripple at Alton, for the cot would be *your* cot, and you would like to know how your little friend was going on. He would answer your letters himself, and tell you of his increasing strength, and the brighter and healthier life you had given him.

AN APPEAL TO THE LADIES.

The success of the Queen Alexandra League depends almost entirely upon the practical sympathy and co-operation of ladies, and the Trustees and Committee who are controlling the work of the Alton Home are very sanguine that Queen Alexandra's example will be widely followed throughout the country. Ladies in all localities are earnestly desired to form Local Associations, and in their leisure time to do all that lies within their power to promote the benevolent and philanthropic purposes of the Home.

There is very little official work in the raising of a Local Association, and all the necessary particulars and details will be at once sent by the Secretary, Queen Alexandra League, 123, Mansion House Chambers, London, E.C.

Ladies will find it to be a veritable work of love in enlisting sufficient children to form a Local Association in their district.

It takes but 35 members to constitute a Local Association, and, as soon as their number is complete, those ladies responsible for the formation become Companions of the

League, and are presented with its official brooch. Further meritorious service is acknowledged by additions to the decoration, denoting the extent and nature of such services.

Companions of the League will have the pleasure and privilege of being specially interested in the particular child in the Home to whose support the annual contributions of the members of the Local Association will be devoted. Both Companions and Members are invited to visit the Home, and to freely correspond with the child identified with their Association.

The Companions of the League can give very valuable help by—

(1) Arranging for reunions of their members from time to time.

(2) Arranging a Lantern Lecture showing the work done at Alton. (Slides will be ready, and can be obtained from the London Office about September).

(3) Promoting the formation of branches in churches, chapels, Sunday Schools, private schools, and elsewhere.

(4) By generally keeping up the interest of their young members.

COMPANION BADGE,

Presented to Ladies who form a Local Association of not less than 35 members.

THE REVERSE SIDE,

Facsimile of the Queen's Signature, specially written for the Badge.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTON HOME AND COLLEGE.

Boys and girls, like children of a larger growth, like to know all about any object in which they are interested, and it is only right that they should be told the fullest details of the great work which will be conducted at Alton. And it might be mentioned here that, when everything is in complete working order, the Alton Home can always be visited and inspected by members of the League.

Alton is reached *via* the London and South-Western Railway from London in a very short time, the distance being but 47 miles.

The Home itself is in the outskirts of Alton, situate on the summit of a gently receding hill, and at an elevation of more than 500 feet above the sea. You are in the very heart of the country there, far removed from the smoke and gloom of towns and the rustle and bustle of commerce, surrounded only by hill and vale, pastures and woods; the open sky above you—Nature's verdant lap beneath. The air is free and unpolluted, and the prevalent winds are ozone-laden, blowing direct from the broad expanse of the English Channel.

Standing in beautifully wooded grounds of over 60 acres in extent, the whole construction and system of the Home is as near perfection as can be brought.

On the brow of this hill are situated the controlling and domestic headquarters, from which an open view of all the other buildings is possible.

A little way down are the nurses' quarters, and immediately below them comes the main medical section, connection with which, by covered ways, are the radiating dormitories, where the most serious cases are housed.

On one side is the building where the senior boys live and are taught their trades and occupations, whilst beyond again are placed the stores, kitchen, laundry, power station, and stables.

In another quarter is a large kitchen garden under the

lee of a wood, where many happy hours will be spent by the little inmates.

Yet again is a section where every inhabitant of the Home will have a little plot of ground, which they can till and tend themselves.

Then there are paddocks where sleek cows graze, runs where good-natured fowls can be relied upon for new-laid eggs.

This is just a cursory glimpse around, and, when you visit each quarter and section in detail, you are at once impressed with the fact that the Home is self-contained—in other words, within its confines are placed and produced everything necessary for its work.

The main object of interest is, of course, the chief medical hospital, with which are connected the living quarters of the inmates.

This hospital is equipped with a series of consulting, examining, and operating rooms, though operations are never resorted to unless it is absolutely imperative.

Fresh air, allied to a liberal diet, consisting of plentiful pure milk, eggs and vegetables, is the principal physic which the little cripples will imbibe and take, and from which such good results are confidently expected. Indeed, it is hoped that the wonderful improvements which similar institutions in France, notably at Berck-sur-Mer and Pol-sur-Mer, will be duplicated, if not surpassed, at Alton.

And there is no reason why they should not be, for everything which human wit and ingenuity can devise will be put into active operation.

The buildings in which the little patients live are built of pitch-pine wood, erected on stone supports rising out of a concrete floor. There is a free and fresh current of air below, above, and around all the time.

All the buildings are lighted throughout by electricity, generated by a special plant, situate within the grounds. The current is conveyed in metallic tubes (by far the safest system known) to the various points, and every precaution is taken against fire, as witness the numerous hydrants which are scattered about. There is a large water tower on

the top of the hill, amply powerful and sufficient enough to supply normal or extraordinary needs.

There will be no fixed rule as to the length of stay, and this will be determined always by circumstances, though, as far as previous data can guide, the average duration of residence will be about five months for the younger children.

The nourishing diet will be provided by the Home's own resources, for a large vegetable garden of over ten acres will grow everything that is wanted, and the poultry and cows will provide an abundant supply of new-laid eggs and pure milk.

The kitchens are model ones, and trained cooks will prepare every meal exactly in accordance with medical instructions.

The staff of nurses will be composed of thoroughly experienced and kind-hearted women, trained to recognise the value of the treatment, and taught to execute their functions in the most valuable way.

It is well to recall what Sir William Broadbent, the eminent physician, has said in relation to the needs for such a Home. He confesses that he is dumbfounded at the extreme lack of Homes of this nature dealing with such important curative work, *and he insists on the maintenance of such Homes in order that tubercular cripples may be lessened in number, and the deformity and virulence of their disease checked. The Alton Home will supply this deficiency, and will be nothing less than a national asset, demonstrating to the race how its physique may be improved and its taxation relieved by early curative and educational agencies.*

The present sad statistics mournfully prove that the rate of mortality of poor tubercular cripples is exceedingly high, and that there is always a welcomed diminution in the death-rate from such a source, where pure air, sustaining food, and scientific attention are at the service of the patients.

Need more be said than this in order to emphasise the good work which members of the Alexandra League will

effect. Children will be delighted at two or three novel and healthful ideas which are incorporated at Alton, and which of themselves will make strongly for the speedy recovery and good spirits of the inmates.

A child's mind controls its body. Take it far away from gloomy thoughts and sad despair, and you have taken a long step towards its better health.

What more ingenious or prettier scheme than to give each inmate his or her own little plot of ground! Gardens always delight youngsters, and with what unbounded joy does the little denizen of our dark streets hail the brightness, beauty, and fragrance of flowers!

Each little inmate at Alton, as their strength allows, will have a plot of ground to till and cultivate—will be a little agriculturist. They will be taken back to the soil, and will draw from its healthy odour and scent-laden flowers newer and sweeter drafts on the bank of health.

And what of that picturesque little wood on the summit of the hill now known as the Alexandra Wood, and, of course, named after our Gracious President? There, when the weather permits, the little ones will be tenderly conveyed by loving, gentle arms, carefully placed on downy cushions, and in the midst of sylvan scenery, bracken, bush and briar, will hold open-air schools, or indulge in such restricted revels as their crippled limbs will allow them.

You know what delight your own country visits afford. Try and imagine the happiness which it will bring to these poor patient little ones.

Then there is their big playground near at hand, where they can have such games and romps as their strength permits—in fact, nothing has been overlooked which will conduce to their entire happiness and entertainment.

This, then, in brief detail, is the Alton Home. Can you think of anything more which could be done on behalf of the little cripples? If so, you must let the ladies who are Companions of your Local League know—or you can write yourself to the Home and make any suggestion.

And, besides your own good work as an active member,

you should always remember what infinite joy the gifts of books or toys will bestow on the inmates.

There are sure to be some who, for a long time, will be confined to their beds, and who can only look wistfully out of the windows. Then, again, on a rainy day—for it rains sometimes in the country—everyone will have to stay indoors. Well, whenever you have an old toy to spare, or book to give away, you should make up your mind that your little protegés at Alton shall have the first refusal of them.

It is far better to give than to receive, for in giving, you delight and benefit others as well as pleasing yourself, and who could you give to better than to those weak little ones at the Alton Home ?

W. P. TRELOAR.

Queen Alexandra League

Of Children

To Help Poor Crippled Children.

Rules.

1. The object of the League, of which Her Majesty Queen Alexandra is President, shall be to assist the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Home and College at Alton, and to promote the well-being of poor crippled children in the United Kingdom.

2. Membership shall be open to all children under the age of 16 years who subscribe or collect the sum of One Guinea annually.

3. Each Member will be presented with the Badge of the League, and a ribbon and clasp will be added for each year of Membership.

4. Ladies who form a Local Association of not less than 35 Members will become Companions of the League, and will be presented with an Official Brooch.

5. The Wives of Lord Lieutenants of Counties, and of Lord Mayors and Mayors of Cities and Boroughs who form

a group of not less than five Local Associations will become Vice-Presidents of the League, and receive an Official Brooch.

6. The Companion of the League of each Local Association will be invited to interest the Members of the Association in one child in the Home to whose support the annual collections of the Members of that Association will be devoted. It is hoped that some of the Members will visit the Home, and, from time to time, write to the child who will be identified with their Association.

For Collection Cards apply to—

SIR WILLIAM P. TRELOAR, BART.,

QUEEN ALEXANDRA LEAGUE,

123, Mansion House Chambers,

London, E.C.